# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com



## **Prom candidates**

Jay County High School will crown its prom queen and king during promenade, which begins at 8 p.m. Saturday at the school. Pictured, front row from left, are queen candidates Maggie Dillon, Bella Denton, Molly Muhlenkamp, Chloe Ruiz and Sarah McClain. Back row are king candidates Justin DeHoff, Reece Leavell, Ryan Cross, Jackson Edwards and Luke Vormohr.

## Votes on aid planned for this week

By ERIK WASSON and BILLY HOUSE

Bloomberg News Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON Speaker Mike Johnson plans separate U.S. House votes this week on new aid to Israel and Ukraine, in an attempt to assemble fragile coalitions to speed weaponry to both besieged allies.

The move could end a months-long Republican us to see how we'll react," blockade on help for Kyiv while also responding quickly to Iran's missile

House to consider funding packages for Ukraine and Israel

and drone attack in Israel urgency among many U.S. line Republican Marjorie over the weekend.

"The world is watching Johnson said Monday, as

he announced the plan. The maneuver taps block Ukraine aid. Hard-

lawmakers to show solidarity with Israel in the wake of the attack while vote on deposing the testing the determination of ultraconservatives to

Taylor Greene of Georgia has threatened to force a speaker if the House con-

siders any Ukraine aid. Greene said Monday night she hasn't decided whether to proceed with an overthrow attempt.

The speaker's decision to vote on Ukraine aid greatly boosts the chances sional impasse that has dragged on since October, when President Joe Biden requested emergency assistance for Kyiv's fight against a Russian inva-

sion. Splitting the aid into separate packages could ease passage.

See **Aid** page 2

## **AV** is up for county, down in cities

Tax bills for spring are due May 10

**The Commercial Review** 

If you live in a city or town in Jay County, expect to see a bigger tax rate on your spring bills this year. If you're outside of

municipal limits, it's the opposite. As spring property tax bills come due May 10, this

year's rates mostly went down, with 13 of Jay County's 18 tax districts seeing lower rates for 2024 as compared to 2023.

But that's a big "mostly," as rates jumped up in all six municipalities, including by double digit percentages year-over-year in four cities and towns.

Although the spikes in assessed values that rocketed tax bills upward over the last few years have stopped, some municipal taxpayers could still see another bump in their annual bills for 2024.

Property tax rates are determined each year by taking the amount of taxes local governments need to raise, the levy, and dividing by the total assessed value of that units. Tax rates for overlapping individual units — county government, cities and towns, schools, libraries and townships — are added up to a total rate for a tax district.

In 2024, all of the rural township districts saw small drops in their tax rates of about 2%, driven mostly by a small reduction of resolving a congres- in the tax rate for the countywide Jay County School Corporation.

But in the cities and towns, rates were up significantly, with Portland seeing a 13.08% increase yearover-year, followed by Dunkirk and Pennville at nearly 12% increases and Redkey up 11%.

See AV page 2

## Former student accused

By MARK FITTON

The Tribune-Star (Terre Haute) Tribune News Service

A former Indiana State University student is facing federal charges of making violent threats via social media against the university, its officials and other people in Vigo County.

Nicholas Wheeler, 27, of Seaside, California, is in custody in California. He faces one count of transmitting an extortionate threat to kidnap or injure, as well as one count of transmitting a threat to kidnap or injure.

Authorities said they seized six firearms from Wheeler's residence, and one of those is thought to be the same firearm shown in one of his social media posts. The FBI also noted Wheeler was in possession of a pistol during a 2022 arrest in Indiana.

Court documents indicate the ISU Police Department on March 19 asked the FBI for help regarding Wheeler "making threats against the university, professors, attorneys, judges and several other individuals," according to a probable cause affidavit filed by Indianapolis- the probable cause filing:

## 27-year-old allegedly made violent threats

based FBI Special Agent Jacob A. Overton.

Wheeler was taken into custody at his home March 20 after a welfare check by Presidio of Monterey Police Department officers. He initially was held on a 72-hour assessment under California's welfare code, according to an affidavit. A feder-

arrest warrant issued March 22. Wheeler, according to the FBI's probable cause affidavit, is a for-

mer ISU student who studied in

the school's flight program. The threatening posts on his X account (formerly Twitter) began on or about March 14 and continued through March 19, authorities say. Among such posts on Wheeler's account, according to

•"I have a fully loaded 200 round MG-M2 machine gun. An uzi, an ar15, and a few glocks. I'm gonna have revenge. I went ahead and bought level 4 body armor and a bullet proof helmet.'

•"Save all my tweets. I'll be on the news in 72 hours if I don't get my money. My professors paid someone 50k to have me raped and castrated in my apartment to make me unfit for flight. They even locked me out of the flight academy at Indiana state university."

"I wish I didn't have to do what I'm gonna be doing. I told these people to apologize and give me money. They wouldn't do it. I'm coming to Indiana for the last time. I am going to go beserk. Last chance

500k send it."

Tribune News Service/Chicago Tribune/Terrence Antonio James

## Mourning daughter

Jose Molina (right) is consoled before the start of a prayer vigil for his slain daughter Ariana Molina in the 2000 block of West 52nd Street in Chicago on Monday. A shooting over the weekend claimed the life of 9-year-old Ariana Molina.

## Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Tuesday. The low was 52.

Rain is expected tonight with winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and a low in the upper 40s. Expect partly cloudy skies Fri-

day with showers in the morning, partly cloudy skies, continued windy conditions and a high in the upper 50s. Friday's low will be around 40.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

## In review

Center Cemetery Board will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Community Room at Jay County Public Library. Anyone who has purchased a plot or has an ancestor interred in Center Cemetery (Indiana 26 and county road 500 West) is invited to attend.

## **Coming up**

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

**Saturday** — Results from Friday's JCHS softball game against Madison-Grant.

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.



Continued from page 1 Bryant and Salamonia had smaller increases, but still 7.3% and 5.8% changes, respectively.

Those increases aren't being driven by major changes in local government spending, but instead in an across-the-board decrease in assessed values in Jay County's cities and towns.

While the total assessed value of the county increased just shy of 3% from 2023 to 2024, values in the municipalities dropped. Dunkirk's assessed value dipped 7.27%, followed by

land down 6.35% year over year. assessed Bryant's value dropped 3.53% and Redkey and Salamonia both saw 1.68% declines in their total value. Those drops have made the denominator in the tax rate equation smaller, resulting in higher tax rates in 2024.

The drop in municipal values reverses a recent trend of spiking property values that has hit Indiana taxpayers hard since the pandemic. Jay County's assessed value growth slowed bers haven't chilled elsewhere to 2.93% in 2024 — growth as Randolph County's values

ered "normal" in years prior to the recent volatility in prices a far cry from the 14.71% spike the county saw from 2022 to 2023.

Neighboring counties in Adams, Blackford, Delaware and Randolph all saw values spike about 13% in 2023. This year's change has been mixed for those neighbors — Adams and Delaware counties saw assessed values up about 3% like Jay County, but the num-

Pennville down 6.93% and Port- around 3% would be consid- are up 9% and Blackford Coun- increase in the tax rate and ty saw an even bigger increase than 2023, up almost 16% this

> Other parts of the state have been seeing consistent doubledigit increases in values for multiple consecutive years, which has caused tax bills to climb and put pressure on taxpavers.

> Higher tax rates usually, but not always, mean bigger tax bills. Since assessed values are down year-over-year, if the value of your house dropped enough it could balance out the

your bill may be similar to 2023. If your value stayed the same, however, or increased, prepare to pay more to the county treasurer in May and November.

Property owners might also be saved by Indiana's tax caps, which cap your bill at a 1% maximum of your total value. Since tax district rates in most of the municipalities are very high, property owners may already be capped out and therefore not see a significant change to their bills.

## CR almanac

Friday 4/19	Saturday 4/20	Sunday 4/21	Monday 4/22	Tuesday 4/23
-				
<b>58/40</b>	52/34	55/36	61/45	62/45
There's a 60% chance of showers and thunderstorms on Friday, when wind gusts may reach 25 mph.		Sunday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with tempera- tures in the mid 50s.	Sunny skies are expected Monday, with a low chance of rain at night.	Another chance of rain and thunder-storms is on the horizon for Tuesday.

## **Lotteries**

### **Powerball**

Estimated jackpot: \$78 million

### **Mega Millions**

21-26-36-44-59 Mega Ball: 2 Megaplier: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$178 million

### Hoosier

Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 5-7-8 Daily Four: 3-7-4-8 Quick Draw: 1-3-6-13-15-18-21-24-26-29-32-34-39-43-51-53-58-59-73-75

**Evening** Daily Three: 1-1-5 Daily Four: 6-7-0-6 Quick Draw: 3-6-9-15-16-18-20-23-25-36-39-43-45-47-49-50-52-60-63-74

### Ohio

Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 7-2-1 Pick 4: 2-5-0-8 Pick 5: 3-6-7-5-3 Evening Pick 3: 0-6-9 Pick 4: 2-7-2-1 Pick 5: 2-5-0-6-2 Rolling Cash: 11-16-23-

Estimated jackpot: \$140,000

## **Capsule Reports**

### **Intersection crash**

Three people sustained injuries after a crash at the intersection of Indiana 26 and Indiana 67 about 3:40 p.m. Tuesday.

Paighton L. Bromagem, 17, Pennville, was stopped in a 2012 Chevrolet Sonic on Indiana 26 headed southeast at its intersection with Indiana 67. Bromagem began turning the vehicle east onto the other highway and pulled in front of a 2008 Sterling Acterra truck, driven by 48-year-old Peter R. Watson of Noblesville. Wat-

the vehicle Bromagem was driving.

Bromagem sustained some minor bleeding on her arm, and Watson complained of upper arm pain. Bromagem's passengers, 18-year-old Kristen M. Bromagem of Pennville and 16-year-old Alex Doll of Portland, also sustained injuries. Kristen Bromagem had minor bleeding on her arm, and Doll had a bruise on his head.

Bromagem and her passengers were transported was driving a 2006 to IU Health Jay for their

son was driving is regis- key when a dog ran in of Wisconsin, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Both vehicles were towed, with damage between estimated \$50,000 and \$100,000.

### Hit rail

Portland Α man crashed the car he was driving into a guard rail along county road 600 South after swerving to avoid hitting a dog about 3:22 p.m. Tuesday.

Austin M. Keedy, 24, Chrysler Pacifica east on son couldn't avoid hitting injuries. The vehicle Wat- the road just east of Red-

tered to Packing Systems front of his path. He swerved away from the animal, causing the car to strike a guard rail along the southside of the road. Keedy told police he bounced off the guard rail and struck the other rail on the north side of the road before stopping.

Keedy was cited with an infraction for driving without a license.

Damage is estimated \$5,000 between \$10,000. The vehicle was registered to Jessica L. Fowler of Redkey, and it

## Funding announced for PPE

### **Bv NIKI KELLY**

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

Gov. Eric Holcomb on Tuesday announced \$10 million in new personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteer firefighters across Indiana.

Most Indiana communities are served by volunteer fire departments, operating on shoestring budgets with dilapidated equipment, a press release said. Some wear protective gear and self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) that may be more than a decade old.

Through Gov. Holcomb's 2023 Next Level Agenda, \$17.7 million was allocated to firefighters for PPE and new training facilities for volunteer stations across Indiana. This investment marks the first time the Indiana General Assembly has dedicated funds specifically to firefighters. The only other funding source for firefighters is

tax revenue from the sale of fireworks in Indiana.

While most people run from dangerous situations, firefighters run toward them to serve their community," Holcomb said. "This investment is long overdue in our state. Nothing could be more important than for these brave men and women to be both properly suited and trained. It's how we can best serve them as they serve

The \$10 million will purchase 940 complete sets of PPE and SCBA, benefiting 66 fire departments across every Indiana fire district. The selection process addressed the poorest volunteer departments first and those with the oldest equipment.

"I travel extensively across the state, and I'm shocked sometimes at the rags that some of these men and women are wearing on fire scenes. They run into burning buildings and are supposed to feel

protected," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Steve Jones. "The volunteer fire service is the backbone of Indiana fire protection. This investment is long overdue, and we will be working hard to find additional funding to enhance safety even more in the years to come.

The funds are administered by the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy, led by the Indiana State Fire Marshal and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The vendor, MES Inc., will work directly with individual firefighters to measure and fit the equipment before delivery.

IDHS accepted submissions for several months in 2023 to determine the highest need departments. Here is a list of the departments that received gear.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

## **Markets**

Cooper Farms

Fort Recovery	
Corn	.4.37
May corn	.4.37
Wheat	.4.21
POET Biorefinin	
Corn	.4.4()

The Andersons
May corn4.40 June corn4.41
001114.40

Richland	Township
Corn	4.23
May corn	4.23
Beans	11.41

### May beans ......11.41 Wheat ..... 5.16 **ADM** Montnelier

Monthener	
Corn	4.10
May corn	4.14
Beans	11.33
May beans	11.36
Wheat	5.13

## Heartland St. Anthony

COI II	
May corn	4.00
Beans	11.19
May beans	11.24
Wheat	4.88

## **Today in history**

area that the British were going to attack.

stein was born in Ulm, tion executive director Wurttemberg, Germany.

two dozen emergency personnel from various agencies in Jay County underwent training regarding explosive ordnance at Jay County Courthouse. In 1998, Brent Muh-

lenkamp and Brianne Horn were crowned Jay County High School's prom king and queen.

In 2013, the Fort Recovery High School baseball team continued its turn-around with a 3-2 victory over Franklin-Monroe. It was the 10th ing Kelly Smeltzer. win of the season for the

In 1775. Paul Revere Indians, who finished 9made his ride to warn 17 in 2012 and had won residents in the Boston just two games apiece in 2010 and '11.

In 2018, Jay County In 1879, Albert Ein- Development Corpora-Bill Bradley informed In 1973, more than the organization's board of directors that he had accepted a job as president/CEO of LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation. He had been with JCDC for almost 11 years.

In 2022, Jay School Board hired Chuck Roesch to become the third band director in the history of Jay County High School. Roesch, who had been at Centerville for two decades, took over for the retir-

## Continued from page 1

Ultra-conservatives have balked at Ukraine spending, which has been widely supported Democrats. Progressives, meanwhile, oppose funding to Israel without restrictions but have pushed to get Ukraine needed aid quickly.

The Republican pack-

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Friday

& Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W.

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Glancy, Max: II a.m., Walker

ages are still being drafted. A tentative summary indicates military aid totals mirror the aid in the \$95 billion Senate bill, minus the humanitarian assistance in that measure. Humanitarian assistance will come in the form of loans and could be tied to GOP priorities like speeding natural gas exports in a separate bill.

Democratic House leader Hakeem Jeffries Monday said early evening Republicans hadn't yet informed him of provisions in the legislation so he couldn't comment on potential Democratic support.

Republican Representative Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, head of the Republican Study Committee, the largest group of House conservatives, said Johnson is "doing the right thing."

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## **Gregory W. LeMaster** for Indiana House District 33



- · Attorney in Practice in the district since 2002. Married, Father of 6. and Grandfather to 5
- · Fair Property Taxes for families and all industries. Work to better fund our towns and cities. · Level playing field for all businesses and
- · Focus on Families and Family Housing as an investment that is never wasted. · Encourage access to health care by limiting liability of small

stop government picking winners and losers

- independent family doctors. · Protect Hoosiers from AI, genetic manipulation, and bring search and
- seizure law into the digital age. Communities flourish when their young people, skilled trades, and professionals return to the community. Lets encourage this with all our might and rededicate ourselves to rebuild our communities for the next generation of families.

 See more on at: www.lemaster. law or on Facebook. Paid for by the Gregory W. LeMaster for House District 33 Candidates Committee



The Commercial Review				
	Run it once	Run it twice	Run it three times	Run it four times
1/2 page color	\$400	\$325 each (\$650 total)	\$250 each (\$750 total)	\$200 each (\$800 total)
1/4 page color	\$250	\$225 each (\$450 total)	\$200 each (\$600 total)	\$175 each (\$700 total)
3x5 black and white	\$195	\$150 each (\$300 total)	\$115 each (\$345 total)	\$95 each (\$380 total)

Rates do not apply to special sections.



**Contact Lindsey at** L.Cochran@thecr.com or (260) 726-8141

## Citizen's calendar

Board of Zoning Appeals, rium, courthouse, 120 N. Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Mooney St.

## **Monday**

3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.

5 p.m. — Jay County 6 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, audito-Court St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Center

Cemetery Board, Community Room, Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk

Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.





## **Kindness counts**

East Jay Elementary recently recognized students pictured above for demonstrating kindness. Pictured, front row, are Coltyn Pearcy, Zaylee White and Gracie Bowlan, second row, are Lucy Locke, Kynlee Homan, Aria Coats, Henry Ankrom, Colin Kelly, Dominga Bernal Guzaro, Evelynne Cook and Wylee Vanalst-Tackett, third row, are Claire Schmiesing, Mikken Huftel, Keenan Osterholt, Remy Stephen, Luke Jellison, Maxwell Cox, Adalyn Broering, Sophia Lawhead and Carysn Guggenbiller, and fourth row, are Brody Jacobs, Ella Case, Eli Dailey, Kyndal Coats, Alyssa Schwieterman, Grace Huelskamp, Harper Kunkle, Kellan Tout and Journey Reynolds.

## Woman believes mom is playing favorites

DEAR ABBY: I am on a limited income. My younger sister, "Tara," is a medical professional with disposable income she spends on frivolous things. I have one son, age 13; she has three children, ages 14, 10 and 3. Tara and I live a few miles apart; our mother lives 60 miles away. My mother keeps my sister's kids every other week. She rarely keeps my son. I must bring my son to her; she drives all the way to Tara's house to pick up her kids and take them home.

I have "borrowed" a rather decent sum of money from my mother. She regularly asks me about paying it back. She spends a lot of extra money on food for Tara's kids because of their spe- for feeling like this? Should I say cial dietary needs. Between that something or just leave it alone?

Dear Abby



and all the driving back and forth, my mother has spent nearly twice as much catering to my sister as what I have borrowed in the same amount of time.

I feel this is very one-sided and that, for some reason, my mother cares more about Tara than about me. I also feel like my son is neglected by my mother. Am I wrong - LOPSIDED IN GEORGIA

LOPSIDED: appears you are jealous of your sister for many reasons. Your mother has the right to whatever she pleases, as does your sister. I don't know why your mother favors Tara's children. Perhaps it's time to ask her why.

As to her request you repay the money she has loaned you, I suggest you work out a repayment plan starting NOW in the hope that it will improve your relationship with her. But if that doesn't happen, arrange for someone else to watch your son.

since I got pregnant, he no longer considers my feelings or treats me as a priority. I have to beg for his support, but when his mom **spend her time and money on** and sister need help, he is quick to help them.

The reason I married him was

because he seemed loyal and dedicated to his family, and I thought he would be that way with us. However, during the last few months of my pregnancy I have felt ignored. He is not really excited about the baby, and we haven't bonded while I am pregnant.

I feel like I'm the last item on his list. I am slowly detaching from him. Even if things change when the baby is here, I don't think I'll respect him or have DEAR ABBY: When I met my those love feelings anymore. I they have one.

husband, I felt valued. But ever now see him in a different light that I find unattractive. Please help. — AT A CROSSROADS IN **MAINE** 

> **CROSSROADS: DEAR** Before this goes any further, recognize that you have steered yourself to a fork in the road. The path you should take is the one that leads to your OB-GYN's office. Your doctor should be told what is happening in your head and in your marriage because you could be experiencing symptoms of pre-partum depression. Do not put this off. Your baby is going to need a father, and the further you distance yourself from your husband, the less likely it will be that

## Community Calendar

Notices will appear in on motivation, coping with meet at 3 p.m. on the third p.m. at St. Vincent Ran- a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday High St., Portland. For Community Calendar as cravings, an item, news@thecr.com.

## **Today**

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

SMART RECOVERY — A Thursday of each month. roup for those struggling ORGAN TRANSPLANT group for those struggling with addition that focuses SUPPORT GROUP — Will

email behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Port-

EN AVANT CLUB -Meets at 1 p.m. on the third

space is available. To sub-thoughts, feelings and the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT - A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9

## **Friday**

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

PAST RECOVERY SERV-ICES — Peer Addiction MOUS — Will meet at 10 Support Team recovery

vention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland.

## **CINCINNATUS**

LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, April 19, at Harmony Café in Portland.

## Saturday

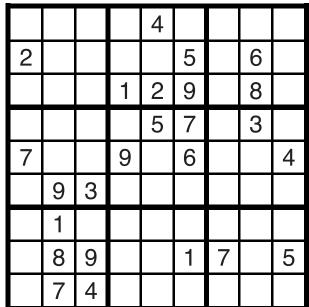
ALCOHOLICS ANONYa.m. at Zion Evangelical

managing Thursday of each month in dolph Hospital, Winchester, at the Jay County Drug Pre-more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113. S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOL-DIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at support group meets at 10 Lutheran Church, 218 E. 510 E. Arch St., Portland.

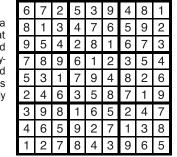
## Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

## Wednesday's Solution

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-bythree boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.





## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**The Graphic Printing Company** will honor its second Teacher of the Year in a special section in May (We may honor multiple teachers based on your nominations.)

Anyone can nominate a teacher.

The award is open to anyone who:

• Teaches in our coverage area (Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, eastern

Delaware county and Fort Recovery)

 Is a teacher who lives in our coverage area

Is a teacher who previously lived

in our coverage area. To nominate, send us a letter that includes your name,

the name of the teacher being nominated, their school, the grade(s) and subject(s) they teach and your reasons for nominating them.

You can send it to news@thecr.com



## Governor candidate ideas fall short

**By MORTON J. MARCUS** 

Four men and three women want to be the next Indiana gov-

Some Republicans met for televised debates. They offered 'plans" for this and for that.

Governor Eric Holcomb demands they provide more details. The Indiana Capital Chronicle (ICC) declares, "Time for gubernatorial candidates to get real on the real issues"
The Indianapolis Business

Journal (IBJ) asks a specific question, "What does the state need to do to boost Indiana's per capita income?"

five candidates responded. Only Brad Chambers responded to that question. The others want to cut taxes which just encourages more consumer spending.

Eye on the Pie



But before we get into the policy bracken, let's be sure we know what we're talking about. Previously, we reported "in the third quarter of 2023, Hoosier workers made \$219 per week less than workers nationwide."

Take that \$219/week and It's the wrong question, but multiply it by 52 weeks in the year and you have almost \$11,400. Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch says, "the average American needs an extra \$11,400 more today than they

did three years ago just to meet Retirement or pension distribu- kvetching (habitually complainbasic needs."

Where did her \$11,400 come from? Is that the average worker or the average household in the U.S. or in Indiana?

Crouch suggests a gradual elimination of our already low income tax or (her figures) \$2,000 for the average Hoosier's pocket

Is that sum the current personal income tax revenue divided by what? The number of workers, the number of tax returns, the number of households or the total population of the state?

Which income? Income from earning, from capital gains, from interest, dividends and rent. Do we include social security payments? How about Medicare benefits received?

ARIZONA'S GRAND CANYON

tions?

Then there's Mr. Holier-thanthou Eric Doden who wants to freeze property taxes for an unspecified group of elderly homeowners. Why not include elderly renters who pay property taxes via their landlords?

Does Doden know Indiana has 314,200 persons 65 and older living alone? That's 28% of the eld-

That grotesque inefficiency factors into our housing crisis. He says high property taxes can force seniors out of their homes. As governor he should keep property taxes on these space hogs and foster new romantic cohabitation among the elderly.

Mike Braun would reduce health care costs. This will increase patient visits and

ing) to health care workers.

Chambers' imperious idea of economic development is topdown from the state via the highhanded agency he once headed.

Curtis Hill wants to cut various taxes. He says nothing about how the state will maintain services needed by the vigorous economy he fantasizes will develop.

What would I suggest? Thanks for asking.

Raise the corporate income tax, institute a graduated personal income tax, improve public services and give businesses modest tax breaks for raising real wages for their lowest paid workers.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

## Trump responsible for setback to 1864

**New York Daily News** 

Tribune News Service Donald Trump had really lousy timing to announce Monday that he wanted to return abortion policy back to the states as it was before Roe v. Wade and promptly on Tuesday, Arizona returned back to 1864. with an ancient ban on the medical procedure. Oh, Arizona is one of the five states that Trump won in 2016 and then lost to Joe Biden in 2020.

What's next, some ban going back to colonial times?

The political problem is all Trump's as he scrabbles to contain the fallout he created, while Arizona doctors could soon face two to five years in prison for providing an abortion.

The old law that is the new law bans humanely and compassionately terminating pregnancies for rape and incest victims and in instances of certain fetal death or when mother's health would be irreversibly impaired, including making her unable to become pregnant again. The sole exception in the 19th century law is to save the woman's own life.

As Trump likes to brag on Monday), he did this, having stacked the U.S. Supreme Court with three hardliner justices who joined Sam Alito and Clarence Thomas to overthrow a half-century of settled law and stare decisis, apparently the Latin phrase for we get to do whatever we want to

Trump was correct came down nearly two years ago, that it would be bad for Republicans. And it's getting worse.

But more important electoral the prospects for Republicans and their nominee, Trump, abortion care, guaranteed to American women and girls in every state for decades, is being stripped away. The wellbeing of millions of real people is at stake in Arizona and who knows

where else is next. The Arizona Supreme Court decided that without Roe and no federal state have voted to supright to abortion, the port abortion rights and clock wound back to the oppose abortion bans. very beginning: 1864, when the Arizona Terri-referendum, the voters tory was created during will know who set their Civil War, being state back 160 years.

## Guest **Editorial**

The Arizona Supreme Court decided that without Roe and no federal right to abortion, the clock wound back to the very beginning ...

carved out of the New Mexico Territory.

This is not the Old West, it's well before the Old West. In 1864, Deputy U.S. Marshal Wyatt Earp was 16 and not yet living in the territory. He wouldn't move to Tombstone for another 15 years. And the Gunfight at the O.K. Cor-

Think about it 1864 (and as he did so again was 48 years before Ariaffordability for many students. zona became a state (in 1912) and it was 109 years before Roe.

> The majority justices of the Arizona Supreme Court didn't write that they wanted to do this, but simply that the 1864 law had been enjoined since Roe and without Roe, the old came back to life.

Democratic Gov. Katie after the Dobbs opinion Hobbs has been urging the Republican legislature to erase the 1864 statute since she took office in January 2023, but she noted that both the GOP speaker of the House and the GOP Senate president backed an amicus "urging the court to do exactly what it did." Like we said before, oops.

> Arizona voters may have an abortion question on the ballot this November (such a question is still yet to be certified) and if so, they will likely vote the same way Americans in every other

> And even if there is no

# Insecurity infiltrates education

By NATALYA GREEN The Fulcrum

Tribune News Service

The "broke, overly stressed, overworked, under-paid" college student stereotype is one of the most common among the population. Decades ago, college tuition (with the accompanying dependency on ramen noodles) was solely to blame; however ral wouldn't be until 1881. as inflation increases, tuition has no longer become the sole concern of

> Despite 72% of undergraduates and 74% of graduate students receiving some form of financial aid, students across the country struggle with meeting their basic needs, including housing.

> According to a recent report released by the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 8% of undergraduates (1.4 million students) and 5% of graduate students (180,000) nationwide reported experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity in 2020. The report analyzed all students, but those of color, specifically those identifying as Native American, Indigenous, and/or African American, face higher rates of homelessness and housing insecurity in comparison to their white or Asian counterparts. Why?

> The problem was exasperated by the pandemic as university resources were quickly depleted, and students were moved to a remote setting limiting additional resources and aid. In employment addition, became extremely limited. Three years since the initial outbreak, the numbers have not improved. Tuition has increased by 32% with median income only increasing by 13%. Many students post-pandemic have taken on additional employment responsibilities, which may lead to demanding work schedules impacting their academic performance and mental health.

Unfortunately, a recent study found that among the students facing housing insecurity, 72% have highly

Natalya Green



considered dropping out of higher education because of burden; yet by dropping out, these students further risk not achieving a higher-paying vocation, which can lead to further housing insecurity. In addition, students who do not complete their degree are at higher risk for not paying loans and remaining in debt. It becomes a never-ending cycle of financial and housing insta-

While many students rely on and receive aid, it is not enough to cover the high costs of basic living. For many students, living on campus is the best and cheaper option. However, campus housing has become limited as enrollment rates increase. In addition, young adults, especially undergraduates, have a hard time achieving off-campus housing because they not have the cosigner/guarantor, security deposit and other traditional standards that come with acquiring an apartment or

Despite data demonstrating the impact of the lack of affordable housing for higher education, there are not as many resources to compensate for the rates of student homelessness and housing insecurity.

Some states such as Florida and Illinois have issued policies mandating that their public colleges and universities have special programs and facilities to address these issues. Yet, these resources are limited and not enough to address every student; additionally, one-third of these students are unaware of the assistance, resources and aid that their colleges and universities provide. While federal programs such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and Emergency Grant Aid for College Students offer financial assistance, these programs are either exempt to the average student and/or limited for temporary relief and do not provide a permanent solution. So what

To properly address these issues. efforts must be considered at the federal, state and local levels, regeral policymakers need to first properly collect and analyze data to determine the rate of housing insecurity among the higher education population via studies such as the American Housing Survey. Based on this data, the federal government can work to make more permanent solutions to emergency funding through programs such as Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program.

Additional solutions can be affirming fair housing against discrimination, exclusion and segregation. In addition, states can follow others such as California, Washington and Minnesota, which have created housing and support programs using designated funds from their state budgets. Lastly, states can create legislation that channels designated antihomelessness resources for universities to educate students on public programs. Lastly, colleges should create resource centers that promote housing security. They can partner with local charities, organizations, and nonprofits to establish a variety of aid programs to meet the needs of their students.

There are a variety of solutions to the student housing problem. Finding the best approach will require the efforts of everyone from the federal government to local communities. For students looking to better their futures through higher education, the time to address this problem is now.

Green is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida and a member of Scholars Strategy Network.

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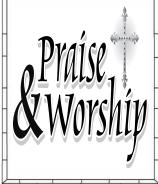


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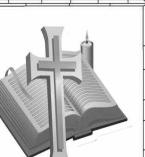
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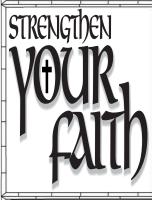


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All services are Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

**Asbury United Methodist** 204 E. Arch St., Portland Joe Boggs

(260) 726-8464

Services: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. asburyministries.org

**Bellefountain United Methodist** 440 S. 600 East Pamela Freeman

Services: 9 a.m. **Bluff Point Friends** 

80 E. 650 South Services: 10 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Boundary St. Paul** Corner of Treaty Line Road and county road 300 East

Ava Gannon (260) 726-2373 Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Bryant Wesleyan** 209 S. Hendricks St.

Paul VanCise (260) 997-6231 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

bryantwesleyanchurch.com

**Calvary United** Methodist

301 N. Main St., Dunkirk Susan Durovey-Antrim (765) 499-0368 Services: 10:30 a.m. susan.duroveyantrim@in umc.org

**Christ Chapel** 

105 S. Elm St., Fort Recovery Quentin Elsea (419) 733-1469 christchapelfr.com

Church of the Living God (Miracle Missions) 8472 S. 800 East, Union

City Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Church of God** of Prophecy

797 N. Creagor Ave., Portland Nanette Weesner (260) 766-9334 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.

nanybell@yahoo.com

**Church of the Brethren** 

Floral and Chicago avenues, Portland Kevin McClung (260) 729-7295 Services: 10 a.m.

Church of

the Living God Broad

Dunkirk Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m. Friday

**Collett Nazarene** 

450 South, 1 mile west of Billy Stanton (260) 251-2403 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

**Cornerstone Baptist** 

211 E. Main St., Portland Wayne Ward (260) 726-7714

Services: 10 a.m. **Cornerstone Church of Pennville** 

190 W. Main St., Pennville David Davidson (260) 202-9718 Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Dunkirk Nazarene** 

Center St., 226 E. Dunkirk Tom Fett (765) 768-6199 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

**Evangelical Methodist** 

930 W. Main St., Portland Steve Arnold (260) 251-0970 Services: 10:20 a.m., 6

**Fairview United Methodist/Jay County** 

2875 E. 200 South Pamela Freeman Lay leader: Beth Stephen (260) 726-9184 Services: 10:15 a.m.

**Faith Community** W. 200 South, 9560 Dunkirk

Joe Schmit (260) 251-5254 Services: 10 a.m.

**Family Worship Center** 200 E. Elder St., Portland Ronald Willis (260) 726-4844 Services: 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday thefamilyworshipcenter.org

**Fellowship Baptist** 

289 S. 200 West **Hugh Kelly** (260) 726-8873 Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Sunday school: 10 a.m. pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com

**First American Baptist** 427 S. Main St., Dunkirk Dan Coffman

(765) 768-7157 Services: 10:40 a.m., 5 p.m.

**First Church of Christ** 1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery

David J. Nicholson (419) 375-2860 Services: 10:30 a.m. fccftrecovery.org

**First Community Baptist** 

341 S. Meridian St., Red-Everett Bilbrey Jr.

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday First Free Will Baptist

12369 W. 600 South. Dunkirk Sunday school: 10 a.m.

Services: 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian 402 N. Ship St., Portland

Rev. M. Rex Espiritu (260) 726-8462 Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school: 10:15 a.m. firstpcportland.org

**Fort Recovery Church** of the Nazarene

401 E. Boundary St., Fort Recovery Revs. Brad and Kate Ratliff

(419) 375-4680 Services: 10:30 a.m. frnaz@frontier.com

**Fort Recovery United Methodist** 309 E. Boundary St., Fort

Recovery Rev. David Yinger (937) 337-5781 Services: 9 a.m.

**Full Gospel Lighthouse Tabernacle** 

468 E. Washington St., Dunkirk Robert Thomas (765) 348-4620 Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Thursday

**Geneva First United Methodist** 

100 W. Line St., Geneva Barry McCune (260) 368-7655 Services: 9:30 a.m.

Street, Geneva Nazarene

225 Decatur St., Geneva (260) 525-8609 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday school: 9 a.m. Prayer meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday

**Gilead Church** County road 650 North, one-quarter mile east of Balbec

Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Hickory Grove** Church of the **Brethren** 

Indiana 1 and Indiana 26 Earl Doll (260) 731-4477 Services: 10:30 a.m.

**High Street United Methodist** 

435 High St., Geneva Rev. Joseph Hampton (260) 368-7233 Services: 9 a.m.

**Holy Trinity Catholic** 7321 E. Indiana 67,

Bryant Fr. Peter Logsdon Fr. Martin Sandhage Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Saturday

**Hopewell of Life Ministries** 

County road 200 South, 2 miles east of Indiana 1 Rev. Ruth Funk (260) 251-8581 Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Catholic** 506 E. Walnut St., Portland

Fr. Peter Logsdon Fr. Martin Sandhage (260) 726-7055 Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

**Kingsley Full Gospel** 4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk Stuart Phillips Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

Mary Help

of Christians 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery Rev. Alexander Witt (419) 375-4153 Services: 4:30 p.m. Satur- The ROCK day, 9 a.m.

Mount Tabor **Community Church** 216 W. Pleasant St.,

Dunkirk Scott McClain (765) 768-7273 Services: 9:30 a.m.

**United Methodist** County roads 600 East

**Mount Zion** 

and 200 North Rev. Darrell Borders (260) 726-4786 Services: 9 a.m.

**New Beginnings Holiness Church** of Blaine

4017 W. 200 South Randy Smith (260) 251-2406 Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. nbholiness.com

**New Covenant Fellowship** 1238 W. 450 South

Chuck Myers (260) 251-0063 Services: 10:30 a.m. **New Life Ministries** 415 S. Helen St., Portland

Dr. Kay Fairchild (260) 223-2961 Services: 4 p.m.

drkayfairchild.com New Mt. Pleasant **United Methodist** 5905 S. Como Road

Neil Butcher

(765) 499-7838

Services: 9 a.m. Noble Congregational

Christian 1964 N. 800 East Aaron Huey Services: 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove **United Methodist** 829 S. Indiana 1

Neil Butcher (765) 760-9085 Services: 10:45 a.m. Pleasant Hill

9945 N. 800 East, Union City Bruce Bryan (765) 964-3664 Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m. mypleasanthillchurch.org

**Portland Church of** Christ

1217 W. Votaw St., Portland Bob Graham (260) 726-7777 Bible class: 9:15 a.m. Services: 10:20 a.m. Bible School: 6 p.m. Wednesday portlandcoc.com

**Portland First Church of Nazarene** 

920 S. Shank St., Portland Steve Cecil (260) 726-8040 Services: 10:45 a.m.

**Portland Friends** 

226 E. Main St., Portland Herb Hummel (260) 202-9732 Services: 10 a.m. Sunday school: 9 a.m.

Praise Chapel **Church of God** 

4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-Randolph county line) Rev. Josh Canfield (765) 584-7045 Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran

Malin and Elm streets, Bryant Father Dan Layden (260) 997-6787 Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey Faith M**inistries

9811 W. Indiana 67, south west of Redkey Rev. Craig and Robin Cotherman (765) 369-2920 Services: 10 a.m. RedkeyFaith.org

**Redkey First** Christian Union and Malin streets

Jeff Hammers (765) 468-6172 Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. **Redkey United** 

Methodist 122 W. Main St. Lori McIntosh (765) 369-2085

Services: 10:30 a.m.

p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

**Redkey Church** of the Nazarene 801 W. High St. Chuck Hollandbeck (765) 369-2676

River of Life

722 W. Main St., Portland Susan Hathaway (260) 729-1095 Services: 10:30 a.m.

1605 N. Meridian St., Portland Matt Ransom (260) 726-7474 Services: 10 a.m.

matt@therockjc.org

Salamonia **Church of Christ** 3900 S. 600 East **Bruce Phillips** 

(260) 335-2017

Services: 9 a.m.

**Second Chance** at Life Ministries 228 S. Meridian St., Port-

land Dave Keen (260) 251-8792 Mike Eads (260) 703-0733 Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery

Rev. Alexander Witt Services: 7:30 a.m. Sun-St. Mary's Catholic 346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk

Rev. Kevin Hurley Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic 517 Meiring Road, Fort Rev. Alexander Witt Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic 1477 Philothea Road, Fort Recovery Rev. Alexander Witt

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday **Sugar Grove Nazarene** 3984 N. 500 West, Portland

Pastor Mike Heckman (615) 517-1017 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Services: 10:30 a.m. Bible study: 6 p.m. Wed-

**Sugar Grove Church** County roads 600 South

and 1150 West, Dunkirk Scott McClain Services: 9 a.m.

**Temple Baptist** 17920 Indiana 167, Dunkirk John Elam (765) 768-7708 Sunday school: 10 a.m. Services: 11 a.m. and 2

p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

templebaptistin.com The Church

at Westchester 4487 E. 400 North (260) 726-6311 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Services: 10:35 a.m. churchatwestchester.org

7pillarsdirector@gmail.com

**Trinity Lutheran** 

301 N. Wayne St., Fort Recovery Robin Owen (419) 375-4498 Services: 9 a.m. (contemporary service, fourth Sun-

pastorrobino@gmail.com

Trinity ArchBridge Church 323 S. Meridian St., Por-

tland Dan Vore (260) 726-8391 Sunday school: 9 a.m. Services: 10:15 a.m. portlandtrinity.com

**Union Chapel** 6200 N. 375 West, Bryant

Interim Pastor Chris Kruchkow (260) 849-0687 Services: 10:20 a.m., 6

**Union Chapel Church** of the Nazarene County road 900 North

(Jay-Wells county line) Fred Stevens Services: 10:30 a.m., 6

**Walnut Corner** County roads 200 North

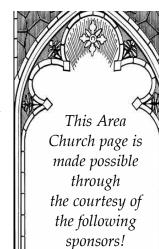
and 500 West Steve Rogers (260) 251-1113 Services: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**West Walnut Church of Christ** 204 W. Walnut St., Portland

Gil Alicea (260) 726-4691 Services: 10 a.m. westwalnutchurchofchrist.org

Zion Evangelical **Lutheran Church** Robin Owen

218 E. High St., Portland (260) 726-8832 zionlutheranportland@gm Services: 10:30 a.m., 6 ail.com Services: 10:30 a.m.



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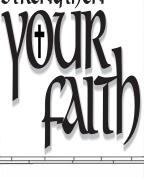
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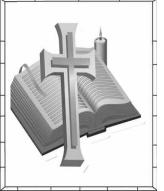




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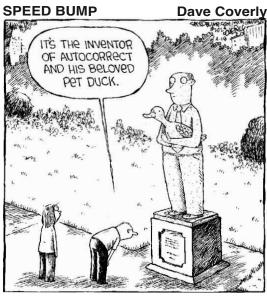


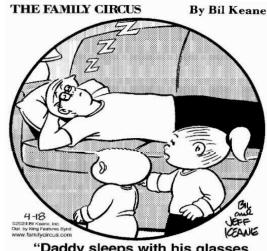


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"Daddy sleeps with his glasses on so he can see his dreams better.

### **Peanuts**



Rose is Rose

I STRIVE TO BE

AUTHENTIC!



I AM STRONG!





## Contract By Steve Becker

### Think before you act

carding a club.

North dealer North-South vulnerable. **NORTH** ♦ A K 10 ♥ J 8 5 ♠KQJ8 WEST EAST

♦ A K 10 8 5 ♣9 6 3 SOUTH ♣A 74

North 1 ♣ East South West 2 **♠** 3 NT Pass 2 NT Pass Opening lead -nine of diamonds.

One of the gratifying aspects of bridge is that careless or thoughtless play does not often go unpun-ished. Perpetrators usually pay for their indiscretions. Consider this case where South

reached three notrump on the bidding shown. East won the diamond lead with the king, cashed the ace, and returned a diamond, West dis-

Declarer now cashed his four club winners, hoping to induce a spade discard from one or both oppo-nents. But both defenders hung on

to their spades, discarding hearts when they ran out of clubs. When declarer next played the A-K of spades, East's jack fell, but South was in no position to enjoy his windfall. If he cashed dummy's

ten, he could not get to his hand to collect the queen, while if he over-took the ten with the queen, West's nine would become the high spade. South's downfall can be attributed directly to his misguided attempt to induce a defensive error by cashing his clubs immediately. In doing so he gave up a perfectly legitimate chance to score four spade tricks if either opponent started with the singleton or doubleton jack of spades — about an 18% possibility. This, combined with the 36% chance of a 3-3 spade division, would have given him better than a

50% chance to make the contract. Had South simply cashed the A-K of spades while he still had the ace of clubs in his hand, he would have had no difficulty collecting the nine tricks he started with

By Eugene Sheffer

21 Bit of

physics

23 Musical

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24 Cauter-

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25 Takes

26 Prosper-

27 Met solo

Seeger

composi-

28 Pete

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32 Florida

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closet

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**36** Life storv

Kimberly

heavily

James

38 Actress

39 Walk

42 Rise

43 Jazzy

44 Back

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45 "Evita"

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48 Sheepish

**46** Pos-

33 Linen

**35 IRS** 

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4 William

Harry's

5 Big cam-

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6 Corn unit

8 Japanese

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custody

**10** — -la-la

abbr.

Solution time: 24 mins.

VSIGN

LOILOVEYOU

11 Book-

**9** One

bloomers

2 Perched

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

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CROSSWORD

34 Be sick

35 Camp

bed

orders

37 Ski resort

in New

York

state

prompter

Exercise"

author

Susan

**47** Showtime

rival

49 Speck

50 Prince in

"Frozen"

Camera"

52 Crazy

**53** Rim

22 Attraction 54 Snooze

**41** Mountain

inns

45 "Trust

40 Duel

**36** Bar

**ACROSS** 

**5** Beer

8 RCA

1 Painter

Chagall

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12 Six-sided

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30 PBS

29 Sports-

26 Thin

(Abbr.)

Athens

**15** NYC

VUR AUP'X WMGK XU HKPEUD

BRHW EXRCC CDUB XWZE ized vehicles, real estate

IUGKDPBKPX AUHRBKPX.

VUR'DK UGKD-DKAMHXZPI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY COULDN'T THE TEDDY BEAR FINISH GORGING ON HIS FOOD? BECAUSE HE WAS ALREADY STUFFED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals F

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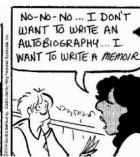


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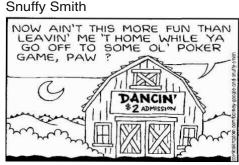
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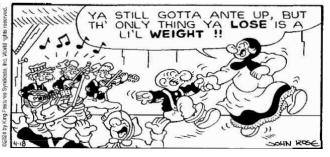
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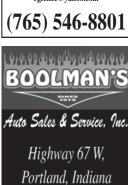




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## Lakers defeat Pelicans to advance to Denver

Los Angeles Times

Tribune News Service NEW ORLEANS — D'Angelo Russell walked to the bench in New Orleans crowd to jeer.

The Lakers guard had just gotten tangled up with Pelicans' fan favorite and All-NBA pest Jose Alvarado, the two players both being called for technical fouls.

The crowd loved it.

As Alvarado led a New Orleans second-half comeback, the fiery guard jawed right at Russell every time he beat him off the dribble, every time he made the right pass or hit the big shot.

But with Alvarado stuck at the table watching, Russell injury. stood open in front of the Peli-

## Los Angeles will be seventh seed in the West, the No. 8 seed is still between Kings and Pelicans

the first quarter, goading the sell, he had a chance for revenge.

He got it.

Russell's huge corner 3 and two Anthony Davis free throws after an offensive rebound were the big plays in the big moments, the Lakers advancing to the playoffs with a 110-106 win in the play-in game at Smoothie King Arena.

The Lakers will get Denver in the first round beginning on Saturday, a Western Conference finals rematch from a year ago.

Zion Williamson, a thorn in the Lakers' side all game, exited late after 40 points because of an

Davis and Austin Reaves cans bench. And as Austin made six free throws in the final Reaves kicked the ball to Rus- minute to hold the Pelicans off.

would somehow dodge the Nuggets by dropping the first play-in game against the Pelicans was always ridiculous, but even more so considering their early-game approach.

LeBron James led all Lakers with 23 points on a night when they had to grind, their offensive rhythm never at 100%.

The Lakers ran up and down the court with the Pelicans early, doing the thing coach Darvin Ham said he wanted to see most from his team early meeting New Orleans' force flipped the game. with force of their own.

hooks and layups in the paint. final run.

The notion that the Lakers James missed easy ones. The two made just three of their first 10 tries.

Only Russell, who scored 13 points and had four assists, found his offensive rhythm. His shot-making was just enough to keep the game from tilting too much towards the Pelicans early.

In the second, led by a strong shift from Gabe Vincent, the Lakers found their footing. For the first time since last season's NBA Finals, Vincent made multiple 3s. James got going and got to the line. And the Lakers

They rolled out of halftime, The trouble was, though, the despite Davis' struggles, leading Lakers couldn't force the ball by as many as 18 in the third lob were enough late-game through the rim. Davis bricked before New Orleans made their

Williamson, who was so quiet on Sunday, got downhill and to the basket. James, who played with so much burst in the Lakers' Game No. 82, looked cemented to the court on two blown layups.

And the Pelicans' deep shooting, which had misfired in the middle two quarters, got hot late, trimming that lead all the way down to a single possession in the back half of the fourth.

The Pelicans tied it emphatically, on a Williamson lob dunk, after another in a stretch of broken possessions ended with Reaves rimming out a 35footer with the Lakers against the shot clock.

But a big jumper from James over Herb Jones and a Russell steal that led to a Reaves-Davis offense for the Lakers to hold



Molly Muhlenkamp smiles as she reaches the 300-meter mark of the 4x800 relay on Tuesday. With the meet being the only home competition for the Jay County High School track team, it acted as their senior night and several of to prompt the smile.

Continued from page 8 DeHoff's year ended at the sectional last season, but she was knocking on the door after missing an automatic berth.

"It was overall just good with all of the events," DeHoff said. "Hurdles has been going good this year, but long jump especially. I was really close to regionals last year with my best at 15 feet, 4 inches. This season I've already jumped to

15 feet, 9 inches, so we're looking good.

The Jay County boys struggled to score against the Tigers. They only captured two victories, with one going to Adam Alig in the high jump. He tied with Bluffton's Austin Geimer and Eli Bertsch at 5 feet, 10 inches. Bertsch scratched his first attempt at 5 feet, inches, to fall to third while Alig and Geimer stayed tied at top.

The only other first-place finish

came from first-year track athlete Caden Gambill. The junior who is starting to learn more about sprinting ran the 100 dash in 11.72 seconds to beat out his opponent from Bluffton by 0.03 seconds and secure his first high school victory.

"I feel really good," Gambill said. "I'm working on getting off the blocks faster. If I can get off the blocks faster I can accelerate faster and it'll get better."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Blake Collins hands off the baton to Caden Gambill during the 4x100-meter relay Tuesday when Muhlenkamp's friends showed up and cheered her the Jay County High School track team hosted the Bluffton Tigers at West Jay Elementary School. Gambill had one of three first-place finishes for the boys in the 97-26 loss.

Dillon faced Lily Hall Dirksen for over two hours before clinching the win for the Patriots (3-1). She took the first set 6-2 and the second set needed to go to a tie breaker. The senior fell behind 6-2 to Hall before storming back to win the tiebreaker and take the set 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

Brenna Haines and Brenna Bailey secured the other two points in the No.1 and 2 singles. Haines beat Emily Bilyeu 6-2, 6-2, while Bailey took down Lainev Hamaker 6-1, 6-1.

to the Eagles. Meredith day 157-158 in a six-hole host Delta today.

and Sprunger lost the No. 1 doubles match to Sloane Harrison and Campbell Quire 6-3, 6-1.

Karlee Cole and Laela Deitzer defeated Zion Beiswanger and Chloe Ruiz 7-6 (7-1), 6-2. The junior varsity team

secured four wins, but dropped four matches as

## **Hines leads**

High School golf team won its season opener Both doubles teams fell against Richmond Tues-

Sophia match at Portland Golf

Karson Hines shot a match-low 33 strokes that included bogeys on holes No. 3 and 4.

Tony Swartenstruber earned the only par for the Patriots. He did so on the par-4 fourth hole.

Bailey Towel and Kason Sims rounded out the team scoring with 42 strokes each.

Playing the No. 6 golfer, The Jay County Junior Crystal Swartenstruber shot a 41 that didn't contribute to the team score.

Jay County (1-0) will

Continued from page 8

Jenna Homan got stuck with the loss after pitching all but one out and giving up six runs, only two of which were earned. She struck out seven batters while allowing three hits and six

Both of the Indians' runs came in the first inning. Ava Grisez scored Emma Will from first base on a single to right field and later came around to score on a passed ball.

First inning struggles

FORT RECOVERY — A rocky start for Fort Recovery's baseball team resulted in a 13-3 loss to the Coldwater Cavaliers in six innings Tuesdav.

Alex Dues struggled on the mound for the Indians (4-3, 1-1 Midwest Athletic Conference) as he allowed all six batters he faced to reach base. Trov Homan came in and the first batter reached base on an error before the next three got out but the damage was done as the Cavaliers (9-0, 2-0 MAC) now had a five-run advantage.

Dues suffered the loss as a result of the first inning.

Reece Wendel had the strongest offensive performance, driving in two runs and scoring one as well. Alex Gaerke was the only Indian with more

than one hit.

## Sports on tap

## Local schedule

Jay County — Boys golf vs. Northeastern -4:30 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. New Castle – 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Woodlan – 6 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. Adams Central – 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Delta – 5 p.m.; Junior high track at Delta –

Fort Recovery — Baseball at Marion Local – 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Marion Local - 5 p.m.

Jay County — Track at Ansonia – 4:30 p.m.; Baseball at Shenandoah - 5 p.m.; Softball vs.

Madison-Grant – 5:30 p.m. Fort Recovery — Softball at Arcanum – 5 p.m.

### TV sports Today

4:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: NCAA championships (ESPN2)

8 p.m. -game (BTN) College football: Indiana spring

9 p.m. — College gymnastics: NCAA championships (ESPN2) 9:30 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)

9:45 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at

San Francisco Giants (FS1)

## Friday

3:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix (ESPN2)

2:45 p.m. - BBL basketball: Manchester Giants at Leicester Riders (Bally Indiana) 5:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Ag-Pro 300 (FS1)

6:30 p.m. — Wrestling: U.S. Olympic trials

6:40 p.m. — MLB: Los Angeles Angels at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — College baseball: Florida at Vander-

## bilt (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — College baseball: Penn State at Central Michigan (BTN)

10 p.m. — PFL fighting: Welterweights & feathrweights (ESPN) 11:45 p.m. — AFL football: Port Adelaide

Power at Collingwood Magpies (FS1)

### Local notes Challenge set

The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County. The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight

races, with five needing to be completed for the

Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well.

To sign up or for more information, visit www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com

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Page 8 www.thecr.com **The Commercial Review** 

# Right next to home

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review With the DUNKIRK cleathouse project and installment of a turf football field, the Patriots were forced off of their home track.

The former site of Dunkirk High School hosted the Patriots to give them an opportunity for a home meet, and the girls didn't disappoint.

The Jay County High School girls track team put together a strong performance with three girls capturing multiple firstplace finishes to help take down the Bluffton Tigers 77-46 TuesJay girls track team wins sole home meet hosted at West Jay Elementary School

School. The boys were overpowered in a 97-26 loss.

"The girls did really well, just how I expected," JCHS coach Joe Imel said. "Looking at the boys, Bluffton has a really strong team, but I'm really pleased with some of the performances."

Morgan DeHoff, Jenna Dues and Alexis Sibray led the way for the girls, accounting for

day at West Jay Elementary seven individual victories. At we've got them everywhere least one of them was on each which will really help us when it relay team that won.

> Each of the three girls succeeded in a different kind of event as DeHoff ran in the hurdles, Dues in the sprints and the 800 run, respectively. Sibray in the distance.

"We're really a well-rounded team on the girls side," Imel said. "We don't have a lot of standouts, but we've got some really good girls on the team and

comes tournament time.'

Dues and Sibray both competed in the regional meet last season — in the 200-meter dash and

Sibray won the 800 run on Tuesday with a time of 2 minutes, 42 seconds, and the 1,600 run in 6:28. She also ran on the 4x800 relay and the 4x400 relay that each took first place.

Dues' times of 28.95 seconds and 13.29 seconds earned her the top spot in the 200 and 100 dash. She tied for first place with Molly Muhlenkamp and Mya Kunkler in the high jump, reaching 4 feet, 8 inches.

Dues also ran the second leg for the 4x100 relay team that included DeHoff as the first leg.

DeHoff's victories came in the 100 hurdles and the long jump (15 feet, 3.5 inches). She added a third place finish in the 300 hurdles, while Makenzie Murphy claimed the victory in 53.56 sec-

See **Home** page 7

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## **MONUMENTS**



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## **Sixteen Indians** claim wins for track

ST. HENRY, Ohio — The girls have already proven to have a strong team. The boys are building themselves up.

Between the two, 16 Indians can claim they won an event on Tuesday.

The Fort Recovery High School track teams competed in a four-team meet at St. Henry on Tuesday, with the girls placing second, while the boys got third place.

The girls team tallied 78 points to finish as the runner-up to Minster (96). Minster also won the boys competition with 107 points, while FRHS tallied 55.

Top finishes from the boys team include Austin Steinbrunner in the 200meter dash (24.33 seconds), Trevor Heitkamp in the 1,600 run (4 minutes, 33.75 seconds) and Lucas Acheson in the high jump (5 feet, 8 inches).

Mara Pearson, Anna Roessner and Kiana Matsuda won sprinting and hurdles events for the girls. Pearson claimed the 100 dash in 12.94 seconds. Rosserner got wins in the 200 dash (25.9) and the 400 run (59.95). Matsuda's victory came in the 300 hurdles (49.44).

the only top-finish for a dis-

tance event. In the field events, Pearson and Karlie Niekamp both claimed first-place finishes. Pearson's 17 feet, 3 inch jump earned first in the long jump, while Niekamp handled the discus with a throw of 108 feet, 5 inches.

## **FRHS** roundup

Winning relays included: Paige Guggenbiller, Aubrey Shuttleworth, Matsuda and Pearson in the girls 4x100 relay (55 seconds) Connor Kaikaila, Stein-

brunner, Benjamin Ingold

and Micheal Laux in the boys 4x100 relay (46.3) Guggenbiller, Matsuda. Maddie Heitkamp and Shuttleworth in the girls

4x200 relay (1:53.4) Matsuda, Ellie Will, Brunswick and Roessner in the 4x400 relay (4:15.57).

### **Walks hurt Tribe**

COLDWATER, Ohio — A five-run sixth inning kept the Fort Recovery softball team from securing its second Midwest Athletic Conference win on Tuesday as the Coldwater Cavaliers got away with a 6-2 triumph.

The Indians (3-6, 1-2 MAC) held a 2-1 advantage for most of the game. The flood gates opened for Cold-Natalie Brunswick's win water (4-4, 2-0 MAC) in the in the 1,600 run (5:20.58) was sixth as a pair of walks set up the rany.

> Tori Timmerman singled to center field to tie the game, before a ground out and an error led to two more runs. Two more walks loaded the bases for Claire Steinke, who's single to center pushed in the final two runs.

See **Indians** page 7

## Jay baseball gets second win

The Patriots secured their first win over the weekend after starting the season with five-straight

Just three days later, they have already picked up their second win.

The Jay County High School baseball team scored four runs in the fifth inning to overcome the Norwell Knights 6-5 on Tuesday.

Norwell (5-3) scored a pair of runs in the fourth inning to hold a 4-2 advantage over the Patriots (2-5).

Jay County started off the fifth inning strong as Jackson Edwards doubled before Drew Schemenaur's single drove him in. A hit batter, a single and two outs later, Ryne Goldsworthy drew a walk to score the second run of the inning and tie the game.

Two more runs scored as Grant Wendel hit the ball to Lane Lewis at shortstop, who committed an error that plated Parker Nichols and Joe Geesaman.

Edwards got the win, pitching 2.2 innings, while only giving up one run. Sam Myers slammed the door shut in the seventh to record the save.

Pats edge Tigers BLUFFTON — The Jay County boys golf team bounced back from the loss in its match-play opener to

## Jay Co. roundup

take down the Bluffton Tigers 188-189 on Tuesday at Timber Ridge Golf Course. In a match full of high

scores, Caleb DeRome shot the lowest for Jay County (1-1, 1-0 Allen County Athletic Conference) with a 45. Even Connor Klopen-

stein of Bluffton, the match medalist, finished with 40 strokes, failing to break into the 30s.

Cody DeHoff's 47 strokes ended up being the second best score for the Patriots. Both Gage Sims and Liam Garringer shot a 48 to round out the team score for Jay County.

Isaac Homan's 51 did not affect the final.

The junior varsity team beat Bluffton 212-243. Luke Fugiett's 49 strokes led the way for the squad.

### **Dillon battles** Maggie Dillon won a long

battle in the No. 3 singles match to secure a 3-2 victory for the Jay County girls tennis team over the Frankton Eagles on Tues-

See Jay page 7